Backward States Grant Fund

401. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present status of Backward States Grant Fund as proposed in the previous budget;

(b) the details of funds released, so far out of this Backward States Grants Fund, State-wise; and

(c) the details of schemes implemented sofar towards the development of Backward States through these funds; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Backward States Grant Funds, as announced by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2004-05, is to become operational from the financial year 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Backward districts in Orissa

402. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified 137 backward districts for development in the country and it is proposed to spend Rs. 45 crores on each of them;

(b) if so, the criteria for identification; and

(c) the details of the districts that have been identified in Orissa and the time-frame within which these would be taken up for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Government have identified 147 districts, 115 backward districts and 32 districts affected by left wing extremism, for funding under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. A sum of Rs. 45 crore is to be provided for each district over a period of three years on 100 per cent grant basis linked with the satisfactory progress of schemes included in the District Plans.